

are used for dances—first, school dances, despite the fact that many of the parents who pay the taxes belong to churches that forbid dancing, so that announcing a school dance is a case of State against Church as much as if the teacher attacked the Catholic mass; second, public dances, which pervert the otherwise wholesome use of school buildings in evenings for "social centers." Surely there is no dearth of dancing, that the State should provide it, and manifestly whatever amusements are provided in school buildings, erected by enforced taxation, should be both recreational and educational in harmony with Shakespeare's lines:

"Tis well to be amused;
But when amusement doth instruction
bring
'Tis better."

The amusement craze, with its strong "yellow streak," has invaded even our publishing houses, libraries and reading rooms. Magazines, having crowded out about all reading save daily papers when they were mighty howlers of civic reform, have yielded to the public tendency to give all of

life outside of business hours to amusement and have become—most of them—mere squirts of sex stories, with which the land is being flooded to the serious injury of mind and body. The injury comes not only from the carrion with which their readers are fed, but also by the displacement of the great books which are "necessities of life" to the soul of man and the spirit of the nation.

What is your duty, reader, in the presence of this nation-wide peril? Let no one say, I cannot do anything to change this mighty current. You can at least shoot the shark that ventures in range of your gun. No mother sits idle in the presence of the paralysis plague. She uses daily the preventive antiseptics prescribed by the health boards. She becomes a vigilant watcher of her child's movements, and safeguards its general health. The news room nearest your home, you, with a neighbor or two, can purge of its worst matter. The writer, even as a passing traveler, has purged hundreds of news rooms of their worst periodicals without strife or force, by a quiet word to the proprietor and a copy of the law.

As for shows, the supreme remedy, a Federal censorship of motion pictures, twice reported favorably in Congress, is not yet a law only because not one father in ten thousand has asked his own congressman and senators to support it. Animals are more brave and faithful in defense of their young.

School boards, too, have promoted dancing only because parents opposed to it have not protested. And periodicals, even sensitive to any criticism made by even a dozen subscribers, have filled their pages with endless variations on the tangled triangle of "the husband, the wife and the lover," only because thousands of Christian subscribers have not protested and warned them that continuance of these attacks on pure manhood and true womanhood will compel a casting out of the periodical from homes and reading rooms.

The churches, with forty millions of members enrolled on their books, have the ability, and so the responsibility to change the very currents of national thought and action. Even one million can do it. Will you count ope? Here is a good motto:

"I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And what I can do I ought to do and by the grace of God I will do."

THE NECESSITY OF CONQUERING JAPAN FOR CHRIST.

By William T. McElroy.

There is probably no nation in the world which it is more imperative for the Christian Church to conquer for Christ than the nation of Japan. In none of the nations of the Orient are the people so well educated as in Japan; there are none others so aggressive and ambitious; and her people possess those qualities of leadership which, in spite of the fact that she is a considerably smaller nation than some of the others, have caused her to be recognized, with the nations of Europe and America, as one of the world powers.

That the other Asiatic nations are looking to Japan for leadership is a fact which only recently has begun to be generally realized. In his recent address before the University of Tokyo, Sir Rabindranath Tagore, the famous poet and philosopher of India, after declaring that his message was the message of India to Japan, spoke the following significant sentence: "If your voice Asia shall answer the questions that Europe has submitted to the

conference of man." This statement and others of a similar nature are reported to have made a great impression on his audience of more than two thousand well educated and prominent leaders of Japan.

If it is true, as the above statements indicate, that Japan is to be in actuality as well as in name the leader of Asia, and that Japan's voice in the councils of world affairs is to be the voice of Asia's millions, then how important it is for the Church of God to use every endeavor to make that leadership a Christian leadership. The testimony of everyone who is familiar with the situation in Japan is to the effect that the present time is of all times the most propitious for the teaching of the religion of Christ. The broader education of her peoples and their contact with western civilization is causing them to discard their heathen forms of worship. Where these forms of worship are not being replaced by Christianity the people are becoming infidels. It is in a transition period like this that a people are most willing to accept the Christian faith.

These facts, therefore, are a clarion call to those portions of the Christian Church which are now at work in Japan, one of which is the Southern

Presbyterian Church. A few workers sent out now would probably have a far greater influence than a great many more workers sent out a few years hence. The opportunity has come, and the responsibility is forced upon us whether we would have it so or not. We believe that God is calling the Southern Presbyterian Church as never before to do her part in furnishing the workers and the means for bringing the nation of Japan to the feet of Christ.

Louisville, Ky.

THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT.

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